

General IAQ News Items (Phil Jalbert).

Green Buildings Legislation. In early July Senators Jeffords and Lautenberg introduced the High-Performance Green Buildings Act of 2004” (S.2620).

ELI State IAQ Laws Database. New information is available on state IAQ laws from the Environmental Law Institute’s website (<http://www.eli.org/research/iaqdatabases2004>). Its development was supported by the U.S. EPA's Indoor Environments Division. The database includes a wide variety of state policies addressing indoor air quality generally, as well as laws that address specific topics such as mold or radon. For more information visit the ELI website or contact Ms. Tobie Bernstein (bernstein@eli.org).

Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI). CRI on June 14 announced it has upgraded its voluntary indoor air quality testing program to meet or exceed low-emitting criteria used by California schools. The "Green Label Plus" independent testing program represents the fourth time it has enhanced its carpet testing standard, a measurement by which manufacturers continue to reduce product emissions, CRI said. A California school that qualifies for rating as a Collaborative for High Performance School earns points for meeting criteria for chemical concentrations for a typical classroom. Air Quality Sciences, an Atlanta-based independent laboratory, will perform testing for Green Label Plus, according to CRI. The institute said it developed the program by working in coordination with California's Sustainable Building Task Force and the Department of Health Services, Indoor Air Quality Section.

Hong Kong’s Indoor Air Quality Rating System. Steven Welty has written an article about the Hong Kong program; copies are available as a handout.

Frasier Finale. In this final (May 4) episode, Frasier while on the phone with his ex-wife Lileth thanks her for the radon detector she gave as a gift to his father and new wife.

EPA IAQ Update

GENERAL ITEMS

1-Federal Family Radon Policies/Programs. Thanks to those of you that responded to our January request, particularly the Navy, GSA and Bonneville Power (DOE). We will be doing more follow-up on this issue later this Summer and Fall.

2-New ORD/IEMB Branch Chief. In late April, Bob Thompson was selected as the new chief of the Indoor Environments Management Branch (IEMB) in EPA’s Office of Research and Development (ORD). Bob can be reached at 919-541-1904 or Thompson.Bob@epa.gov. Previously Bob was with the EPA HQ Indoor Environments Division.

3-ORD IAQ Agenda. ORD presented a very extensive report on their IAQ related activities at the last CIAQ meeting. Please see the minutes for the April 21st meeting on the CIAQ website for more information (<http://www.epa.gov/iaq/ciaq/index.html>).

ASTHMA

4-Asthma. EPA and CDC will begin distribution of an asthma trigger awareness pamphlet specifically targeting people with limited reading skills, disproportionately impacted by asthma. This pamphlet was developed in collaboration with a Health Literacy expert to ensure that content, presentation, and design appropriately address the target audience needs. In addition, the pamphlet was field tested with target audience to determine its effectiveness. The point of contact is Dave Rowson, Director, Center for Healthy Buildings/IED/EPA, 202-343-9449.

5-Asthma Meeting. Elizabeth Cotsworth, Director ORIA, launched a new recognition program on June 17th at the America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) 2004 Institute in Chicago, Illinois. The new program will recognize health plans and health care providers with programs that effectively incorporate environmental management techniques to address asthma. An inaugural leadership award will be presented to AHIP to recognize their dedication to the reduction of childhood asthma. AHIP is a national trade association representing nearly 1,300 member companies providing health insurance coverage to more than 200 million Americans. ORIA has partnered with AHIP's *Taking on Asthma Initiative* for the past three years.

ETS (Second-hand Smoke)

6-EPA/HHS: Head Start Bureau Partnership. Because of a very successful introduction of ORIA's Smoke-free Homes program to 3,800 parents, program directors, and other staff at a Head Start conference in Dallas June 14-18, the Head Start Bureau has asked ORIA staff to participate in another conference for Head Start Program Directors during July. As a result of efforts at the June 14-16 Conference, 1,050 conference participants signed the Smoke-Free Homes pledge, 500 more than we had hoped for. Plans are now underway for an official joint partnership launch and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by HHS Secretary, Tommy Thompson and, if available, Administrator Leavitt later this summer.

7-EPA Employee Pledge Campaign. The Environmental Tobacco Smoke Team is planning to take its important Smoke-free Homes Pledge Campaign to all our colleagues Agency-wide in the next couple of months. Through a message from the Administrator or our Assistant Administrator, Jeff Holmstead, (yet to be determined), we hope to encourage our colleagues to help the Agency "lead by example" in protecting especially young children from secondhand smoke exposure. We are still working on the details, but are also planning to have a booth in the EPA cafeteria at certain times and to place an article into EPA's publications.

SCHOOLS

8-Schools Briefing for the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC). At the request of the Children's Health Protection FACA, Bob Axelrad provided a briefing on May 27th on the Healthy School Environments effort to better coordinate and integrate all of EPA's schools programs. The CHPAC has had a strong interest in the schools issue and previously made a series of recommendations to the former Administrator about actions EPA should take to make school environmental health a priority.

IAQ

9-US Green Building Council. On June 21, Ken Sandler, as Co-Chair of the EPA Green Building Workgroup, facilitated the first meeting between the Workgroup and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The Workgroup is seeking to develop a closer relationship with USGBC, particularly to facilitate EPA input into the highly successful LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) green building rating system B including improving the quality of LEED credits and guidance on indoor air.

10-Partnership for Clean Indoor Air Grant Awarded. ORIA awarded a \$92,000 grant to HELPS International, Inc. to implement a household energy project in Guatemala to design a low-cost retained heat cooker (RHC) that uses local and applicable materials and can be mass-produced. They anticipate an additional 15% saving in firewood in homes already using an improved cookstove with a 70% reduction in firewood use.

HELPS will maximize education and training efforts by training other established non-governmental organizations who will then promote retained heat cookers in local communities using women promoters. HELPS will establish a distribution method working through established local organizations to deliver 1500 RHC units to interested communities. They will also establish an organization for the continuing, financially sustainable production and distribution of retained heat cookers. This is the first of eleven grants to be awarded under the Partnership for Clean Indoor Air, for a total of \$1.3 million.

MOLD

11-Conference - Mold-related Health Effects. Laura Kolb and Susan Conrath of EPA/IED represented EPA at a Mold Conference sponsored by NIH, Johns Hopkins, NIEHS and others on June 28/29. The topics covered included clinical issues, worker protection, and biomedical research issues. Laura presented the EPA perspective during the federal panel discussion on 6/29/04 and Marsha Ward (ORD) presented on EPA's mold allergy research.

RADON

12-The 14th National Radon Meeting. The 2004 meeting will be held in Newport, Rhode Island on November 7-10, 2004. The first day of the meeting is a joint session with the American Association of Radon Scientists and more than 400 radon professionals including more than 100 state and local radon program directors as well as radon educators, and radon testing and mitigation professionals are expected to participate. The POC is Dave Rowson, Director, Center for Healthy Buildings, 202-343-9449.

13-Radon Presentation at Clean Air Act Advisory Committee meeting June 24th. IED Director, Tom Kelly facilitated a session at the June 24th CAAAC meeting on how to achieve greater radon risk reduction. This was the first time IED discussed radon with the CAAAC. The presentation is part of a larger Radon Revitalization Campaign with existing/potential stakeholders. Tom discussed the new radon risk information we have, program accomplishments to-date, and the need for increased action, and to solicit ideas and advice from CAAAC members about how to boost interest in and results on this important public health issue.

14-World Health Organization (WHO). IED's Radon Team will be working with the WHO, which is extending its activities on residential radon exposure. The objectives of the WHO radon program include: (1) Building a network of agencies involved in radon exposure assessment and mitigation programs, and encouraging other countries at risk to join the network; (2) Creating a world-wide database of national and international authorities/institutions dealing with radon issues and research, national residential radon levels, radon action levels, radon regulations and other mitigation strategies; and (3) preparing public health guidance to raise awareness of radon and methods for dealing with it. The project is intended to estimate the global health burden of disease associated with exposure to residential radon and begin monitoring programs to determine the effectiveness of mitigation strategies.